

Message Text

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46

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 NSCE-00

NSC-05 OPR-02 PPTE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIE-00 SY-05 A-01 DPW-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-02

SS-15 FSE-00 USSS-00 SSO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9047

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2365

FOR SCA, SCS, AND PPT

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CASC, CPAS

SUBJ: W/W AMERICAN PRISONERS IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 2177

1. AS DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE, LEBANON'S NEW CRISIS, REVOLVING AROUND FRANGIE'S FATE, HAS SIDETRACKED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTIES. WE HAVE ONE RUMOR THAT AMNESTIES HAVE BEEN SIGNED, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE COMMUNICATE WITH PRESIDENCY. IN MEANTIME, THIS COURSE OF ACTION OVERTAKEN BY MORE DRAMATIC EVENTS, THE QUOTE LIBERATION END QUOTE OF SEVERAL PRISONS BY ARMED ELEMENTS AND RELEASE OF MANY PRISONERS, INCLUDING SOME US CITIZENS.

2. WE LEARNED LATE YESTERDAY THAT SANDS PRISON HAD BEEN EMPTIED OF ALL PRISONERS ABOUT 10:00 A.M. THAT MORNING. ALL FOREIGN PRISONERS BELIEVED SAFE. TWO US CITIZENS, MICHAEL LEWIS GEIGER AND DONALD ADAMS REPORTED INCLUDED AMONG THOSE RELEASED. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT YET COMMUNICATED WITH US, PRISON VISITOR, ATTORNEY OR OTHER LIKELY CONTACT POINTS. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS
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LOCATE.

3. BEIRUT WOMEN'S PRISON LIBERATED EARLY THIS MORNING. USC PRISONER MARTHA SINCLAIR TELEPHONED US THIS MORNING FROM HOUSE TO WHICH SHE TAKEN AFTER RELEASE. CONSULAR OFFICER BROUGHT HER TO EMBASSY. OTHER USC PRISONER, VICTORIA COLE, FINALLY WALKED IN EMBASSY AT 1:00 P.M. BOTH SAFE AND WELL.

4. REMAINING US CITIZEN PRISONERS ARE AT ROUMIEH PRISON, IN MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE BEIRUT. THAT PRISON ALSO TAKEN OVER, BUT SOME OR ALL FOREIGN PRISONERS, PROBABLY INCLUDING ALL AMERICANS, STILL HELD. MAY BE RELEASED SOON.

5. IN VIEW EXTRAORDINARY AND HAZARDOUS SITUATION IN BEIRUT, EMBASSY INTENDS TAKE WHATEVER ACTION POSSIBLE FACILITATE DEPARTURE OF US CITIZEN EX-PRISONERS. IN CASES IN WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN NO REPEAT NO RESTRICTIVE PASSPORT ACTION, NEW PASSPORTS WILL BE ISSUED TO REPLACE THOSE THAT ARE LOST OR UNAVAILABLE. REMNANTS OF SURETY GENERAL DIFFICULT TO LOCATE BUT WE BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS ARRANGE INFORMAL CLEARANCES FOR DEPARTURE AT AIRPORT.

6. EX-PRISONERS FOR WHOM WE HAVE RECEIVED RESTRICTIVE PASSPORT ACTIONS (INCLUDING MISS COLE) PRESENT GREATER PROBLEM AS USE OF IDENTITY CARD INSTEAD OF PASSPORT AT AIRPORT WILL SEVERELY COMPLICATE OR PREVENT DEPARTURE. WE BELIEVE BEST WAY TO INSURE THEIR DEPARTURE AND RETURN TO US JURISDICTION IS AS FOLLOWS. POST WILL ISSUE PASSPORTS LIMITED FOR IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT TRAVEL TO US. WE WILL INSURE DEPARTURE ON PREDETERMINED FLIGHT, DIRECT TO US IF POSSIBLE. WE WILL THEN INFORM DEPARTMENT RE ARRIVAL DATA AND WILL REQUEST ALL POSTS AT INTERMEDIATE CITIES TO ASK IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES PREVENT ENTRY. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE, AS IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY. WE HOPE TO GET BOTH WOMEN EX-PRISONERS ON FLIGHTS TOMORROW.

7. CABLES ON INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS FOLLOW.
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